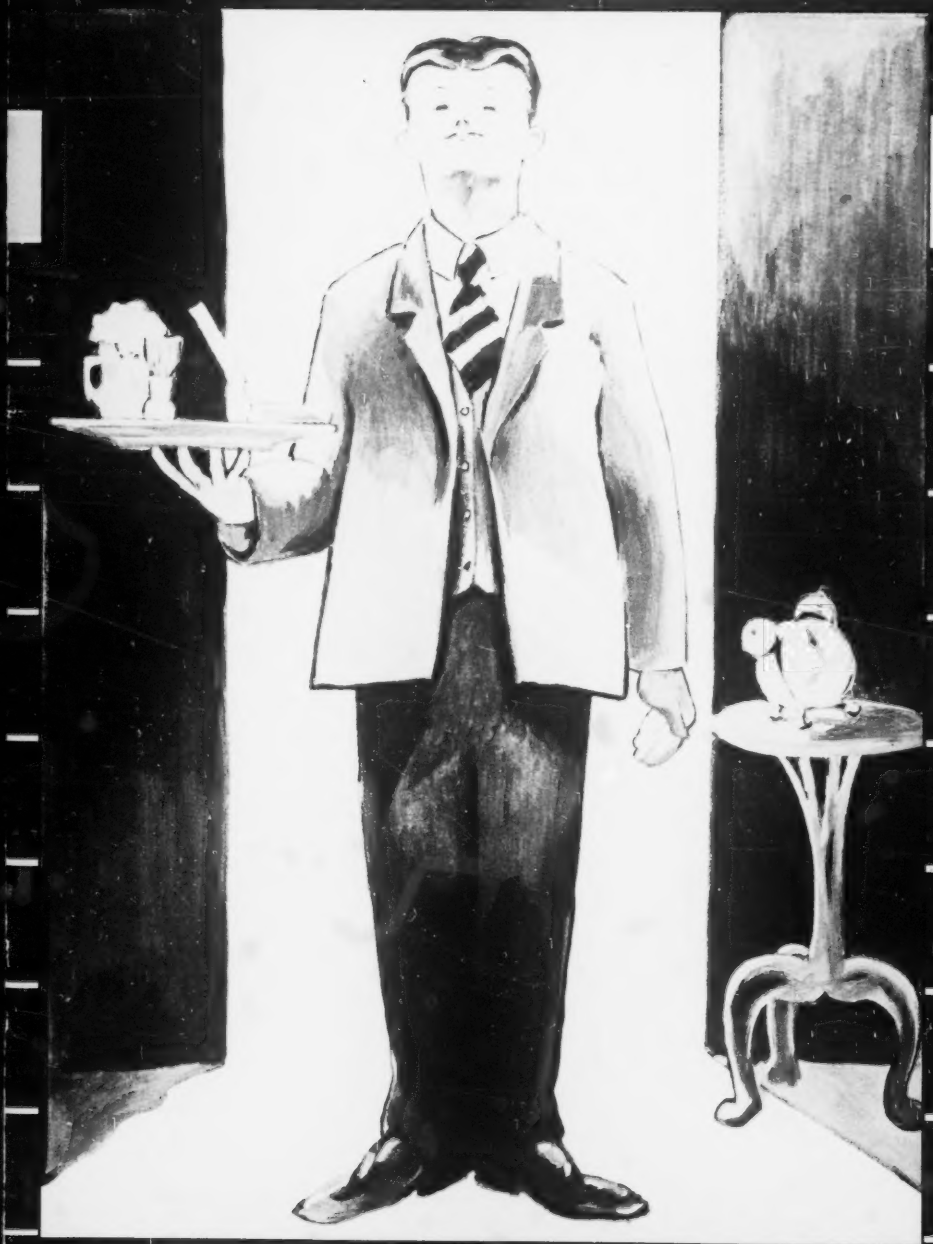
ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS



March 1991

ALASKA'S SERVICES INDUSTRIES

LAYOFFS IN ALASKA: 1989

YEAR ENDS ON AN UPBEAT NOTE

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

ALASKA ECONOMIC
TRENDS

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Services — Alaska's Largest Private Sector Industry

by Holly Stinson

The services industry is the largest but least understood of Alaska's

employment categories. The nomenclature for all other industries is self-explanatory (mining, construction, retail trade, etc.). The title of services, however, hides a wide variety of businesses. In this diverse group are found accounting firms, movie houses, shoe repair shops, and private museums, to name but a few.

As a group, services firms grew faster than any other industry in Alaska in the 1980s. Services employment increased 55% from 1980 to 1989, while the Alaskan economy as a whole enjoyed a 33% increase in employment. This sector also outpaced total job growth in the first six months of 1990, increasing 9.1% over the first six months of 1989 while all industries increased 6%.

Jobs in services grew at a faster rate during the boom years, and lost ground at a slower rate during the recession, than total employment. (See Figure 1.) Their recovery has also been faster than the industry-wide rate. During this period, four out of every ten new jobs created in the private sector were with services firms. The driving force behind this growth was population gain. In addition, the nationwide trend is toward higher demand of services by individuals. More two wage-earner families means more demand for personal services. Other factors causing this trend are more discretionary income and individuals' changing tastes and desires. Another factor for services growth in Alaska was the increase in tourism during the same period, which directly benefitted many services firms.

What Is the Services Industry?

The federal Bureau of Labor Statistics divides firms in the services industry into 16 categories. Comparisons over time are meaningless for several of these categories, however, because they were revised in 1987. In order to get an accurate picture of employment growth for the affected categories, they have been grouped together and referred to as business and personal services in Table 1.

It is important not to confuse the services industry with what is termed the service-producing sector of the economy. The services industry is only one component of the service-producing sector. The service-producing side of the economy includes, in addition to its services component, such industries as transportation and trade.

When articles refer to the growth of the service economy in the U.S., these other service-producing industries are included. The service-producing sector had 76% of all jobs in the U.S. in 1989, up from 70% in 1979. Within this service economy, the services industry alone employs 25% of total U.S. workers. In Alaska, the service-producing

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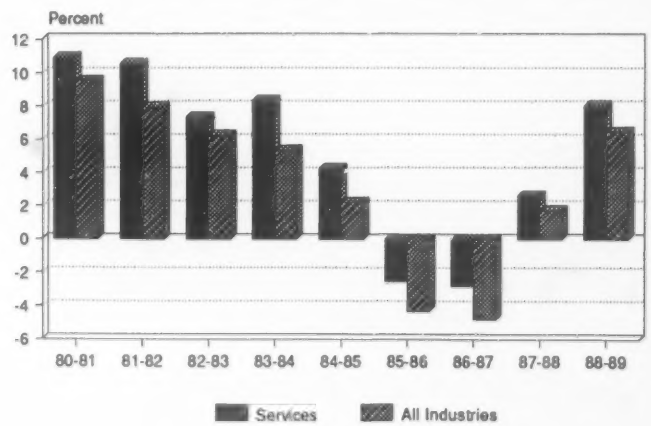
Figure • 1

Change in Employment
Services & All Industries



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Table • 1

Services Employment by Industry

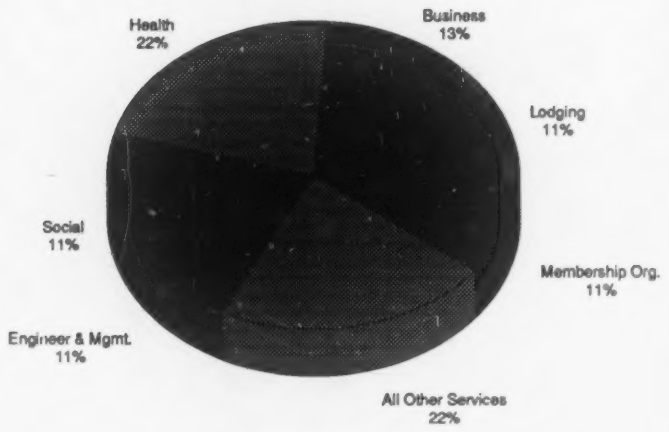
	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Total	29,699	32,410	35,412	37,873	40,837	42,998	42,650	40,998	42,834	45,901
Hotels & Lodging	3,275	3,649	4,263	4,294	4,588	4,688	4,641	4,621	4,747	5,019
Business & Personal*	9,619	11,472	13,222	14,054	15,340	16,171	14,684	13,433	13,965	15,413
Auto Services	851	1,005	1,106	1,325	1,493	1,571	1,483	1,378	1,548	1,682
Misc. Repair	490	586	662	683	761	845	847	763	672	754
Health Services	5,795	6,316	6,740	7,399	8,286	8,753	9,043	9,035	9,421	9,998
Legal Services	1,297	1,395	1,523	1,589	1,663	1,800	1,879	1,921	1,988	1,937
Education Services	597	626	569	578	730	722	736	800	811	926
Social Services	4,108	4,190	3,936	4,121	4,071	4,432	4,971	4,640	4,799	5,145
Membership Organizations	3,656	3,160	3,380	3,816	3,875	3,976	4,334	4,357	4,818	4,946
Private Households	11	11	11	14	30	40	32	50	65	81

*Includes business, engineering & management, personal, motion pictures, recreation, museums and miscellaneous services.

Source: Alaska Dept. of Labor, Research & Analysis Section

Figure • 2

Services Employment, 1989



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

sector had 84% of the jobs, while the services industry alone had 20%.

Services Dominated By Small Firms

Firms offering services range in size from very large to very small. Of Alaska's 100 largest employers in 1989, 24 were from the services industry. (See article in August 1990 issue of *Alaska Economic Trends*.) Even so, the services industry has a large proportion of small firms — for every firm with ten or more employees there are four firms with fewer than ten employees in Alaska.

Not included in the employment statistics in Table 1 are the self-employed. The services industry probably has a larger percentage of self-employed than any other industry. The nature of the industry, offering various services to the population, lends itself to self-employment. It is much easier to be a self-employed hairdresser, bookkeeper, or child care worker, for example, than to be self-employed in the manufacturing or transportation industries.

One In Five Services Jobs Are Health-Related

Health services has more of the large firms than any other services group. The hospitals and health care providers with 100+ employees provide more than half of all health services jobs, but represent only 2% of the health care employers.

Health services is the largest category in the services industry. (See Figure 2.) Over 20% of services jobs are in this field. Health care employment grew rapidly during the 1980s in the U.S., and Alaska was no exception. A larger population demanding more health care, along with an aging population (which needs proportionately more health care services than younger people), contributed to this growth. Advances in medical science and technology are another reason. Some medical equipment and tests performed in 1989 did not even exist ten years earlier. New diseases, most notably AIDS, also increased the demand for health services nationwide. In Alaska, another reason for growth is the increase in procedures done locally which previously were not available in the state.

During the 1986-87 recession, the services industry as a whole lost 2,000 jobs. However, the health care category was one of the few that didn't lose employment. Many of the reasons for this field's overall growth mentioned above enabled health care employment to remain steady even while the population it served was eroding.

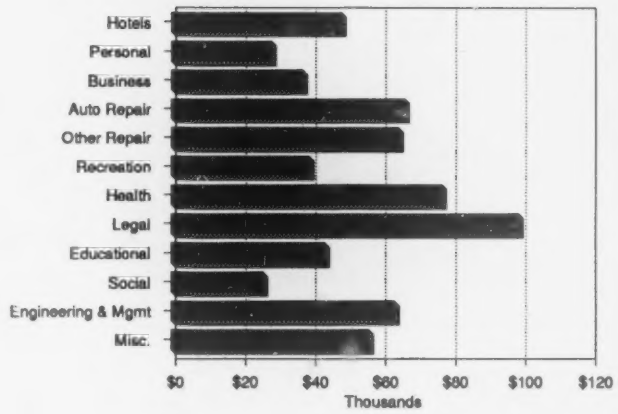
Not included in health care employment are jobs with government-run facilities. In Alaska, this means the 1000+ employees of the Alaska Area Native Health Service are included in federal government rather than health care. Likewise, health services provided by local and state governments are counted in the government sector.

Very Few Education Jobs Are Counted In Services

Educational services is another category where the jobs included in services do not tell the whole story. In this case, the majority of education jobs are found in the government sector. Employment with private schools are the only educational jobs included in services; in 1989 they numbered fewer than 1,000. In contrast, state and local governments had more than 20,000 employees working in education.

Figure • 3

Income Per Employee for Service Firms*



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Slow Growth For Social Services Employment

Employers offering family and child care services, residential care, job training, and other social services added jobs at a slower rate during the 1980s than any other services group. Social services employment now makes up 11% of services jobs, vs. 14% in 1980.

Social services firms have taken in the lowest receipts per employee in the services industry. (See Figure3.) Because many social services are utilized by low-income Alaskans, this is not surprising. People holding social services jobs also have a lower than average monthly wage. In 1989 the average monthly social services wage was $1,343. This compares to $1,802 per month in the entire services industry, and $2,452 per month for all industries. The legal field manages to bring in the most money per employee of all the services categories — close to $100,000 a year for each worker. (See Figure 3.) This explains why such a small category earns such a large share of income. With fewer than 2,000 employees (4.2% of services employment) legal establishments earned 13% of services income in 1987.

Services Employment by Category

	1Q89	2Q89	3Q89	4Q89	1Q90	2Q90	3Q90	4Q90	1989 1st 6 Months	1990 1st 6 Months	Percent Change
Total	42,658	46,265	48,690	45,987	46,789	50,183	0	0	44,462	48,486	9.1%
Hotels & Lodging	4,027	5,199	6,313	4,537	4,397	5,688			4,613	5,043	9.3
Business Services	5,223	6,063	6,348	6,024	6,223	6,857			5,643	6,540	15.9
Eng. & Mgmt. Services	4,415	4,964	5,482	5,038	5,475	5,822			4,690	5,649	20.4
Pesonal Services	1,770	1,698	1,709	1,730	1,820	1,822			1,734	1,821	5.0
Motion Pictures	799	835	883	796	865	901			817	883	8.1
Recreation Services	1,732	1,898	1,901	1,694	1,740	1,901			1,815	1,821	0.3
Museums	48	66	84	53	57	69			57	63	10.5
Misc. Services	92	88	111	107	111	106			90	109	20.6
Auto Services	1,518	1,716	1,768	1,726	1,771	2,050			1,617	1,911	18.2
Misc. Repair	702	788	767	760	799	918			745	859	15.2
Health Services	9,749	9,971	10,112	10,160	10,178	10,430			9,860	10,304	4.5
Legal Services	1,907	1,930	1,932	1,979	1,982	2,009			1,919	1,996	4.0
Education Services	913	940	855	994	972	955			927	964	4.0
Social Services	5,075	5,155	5,049	5,299	5,336	5,397			5,115	5,367	4.9
Membership Orgs.	4,616	4,875	5,292	5,001	4,971	5,170			4,746	5,071	6.8
Private households	72	79	84	89	92	88			76	90	19.2

Source: Alaska Dept. of Labor, Research & Analysis Section

Two other categories which have a high earnings:employment ratio are auto and other repair businesses. The automobile category is not limited to repairs, but includes rentals (of cars and recreational vehicles), parking facilities and carwashes.

There's not much to say about one of the smallest group in services, referred to as private households. These are the cooks, gardeners and maids employed in private homes. A look at Table 2 will confirm that not many Alaskans employ butlers or other workers in their homes.

Personal Services Linked To Population, Income

The personal services category includes such services as laundries and dry cleaners, photo studios, funeral homes, beauty and barber shops. Some firms in this category were reclassified and now appear in business, recreation, and miscellaneous services.

Closely related groups are motion pictures (which includes the rapidly expanding video tape rental business) and recreation services. The smallest category in services covers museums, art galleries and zoos. In 1989 ten percent of all services jobs fell into one of these four categories that offer services to individuals. In 1980, only 6.5% of services employment were with these firms.

Many of the services offered by these employers are discretionary as opposed to necessary. Therefore, their fortunes are linked not only to total population but also to the income of that population. Alaska's per capita income was $21,656 in 1989. This is the highest ever, even adjusting for inflation, and helps explain the growth of the personal services economy.

New and Expanding Services Are Found In Business Categories

On the other side of the coin are those services firms catering to businesses rather than individuals. Over 600 enterprises provide advertising, collection, computer and data processing services to Alaskan businesses. Also included in the business services group are agencies supplying temporary help and security personnel.

Another 600+ companies providing services to business are in the engineering and management classification. Before 1988, these firms reported employment under miscellaneous services. Engineers, architects, accountants and public relations workers are in this group, along with firms offering management, research and testing services.

Together these two classifications offering services to the business community employed more than 10,000 people in 1989. This represents nearly one-fourth of all services employment.

These employers are a dynamic group. Many of the services offered in 1989 were in their infancy ten years earlier, and did not even exist twenty years ago. For example, there was one standard industrial classification code for computer services in 1967; the 1987 classification manual lists ten separate ones for varying services associated with computers.

Another sector expanding in the business arena is the firms providing temporary and contract help. This is true both in Alaska and nationwide. More companies are making use of temporary and contract help to provide services formerly done in-house as a way to deal with shrinking profit margins.

A Wide Variety Is Found In Membership Organizations Category

The membership organizations category spans both the personal and business spheres. It consists of an assortment of business, social, political and religious groups along with labor unions. Included under this heading are the Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Girl Scouts, most of the Native nonprofit organizations such as Tanana Chiefs Conference, local chambers of commerce, and the Salvation Army. Employment with membership organizations has grown steadily through the 1980s, even during the years of a population drain. This group rarely grabs headlines, but they account for over 10% of services jobs.

Hotels An Indicator of Tourist Industry

The services group which often does make the news is the hotel and lodging category. These businesses are one of the vital signs used to gauge the health of the tourist industry. A look at lodging employment in the 1980s will tell you how healthy the tourist industry was during this time. There was virtually no decline in employment during the recession; by 1989 this sector had grown to become half again as large at it was in 1980.

There are several reasons for the growth in hotel and lodging employment. A larger resident population is one. Another is the aforementioned increase in tourism. Expanding the tourist season to include spring and fall months, and attracting more conventions to locations throughout the state, has helped boost visitor statistics. People travelling on business or as an occupation are also important to the hotel business. For example, the number of hotel rooms in Anchorage reserved each night for flight crew stopovers is estimated at 400.

The hotel industry's growth is evident in the number of new or expanded lodging facilities across the state. Ketchikan has a new Westmark, Anchorage has two new hotels and plans for renovation and expansion of several others, the Kenai Peninsula Borough is seeing additions on many hotels, lodging near Denali Park has mushroomed in recent years, and workers will soon break ground for a 200-room Princess hotel in Fairbanks.

Summary: Services Are A Diverse, Dynamic Industry

A wide variety of firms are found under the heading of services. They range from advertising and accounting agencies to barber shops, museums, hospitals and day care centers. As a group, their employment grew faster than that of any other industry in Alaska in the 1980s. Although closely linked to population, other factors kept them growing faster during the boom years and shrinking less during the recession years than the economy as a whole.

Health services is the largest category, garnering more than 20% of all services jobs. It was one of the few which didn't lose employment during the population dra[illegible] of 1986-88.

Another group which showed virtually no decline in employment during the recession was hotels and lodging facilities. A healthy tourist industry and an increase in business travellers has kept this sector growing. Many new facilities are opening or in the planning stages to accommodate even more visitors in the 1990s.

Jobs with social services firms grew more slowly than did other services employment. The average wage is lower, too — $1,343 a month in social services versus $1,802 for the entire services industry.

Personal services became a larger share of the employment pie in the 1980s. This trend is expected to continue in the next decade as discretionary income increases.

The two categories catering to business services employed over 10,000 people in 1989. They are a dynamic group, offering services which did not even exist twenty years ago. The scope of services offered to the business community should continue to expand in the future.

New business services, along with increased demand for health and legal services, and a trend toward higher individual use of personal services, should keep the entire services industry growing faster than what a population increase alone would necessitate.

Mass Layoffs in Alaska: 1989

by Judy Hallanger

In recent years attention has been drawn to the plight of the

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dislocated or displaced worker. The introduction of new technology, the shift from manufacturing to service jobs, growing foreign competition, and fear of yet another impending recession have all contributed to this concern. The terms "dislocated" and "displaced" are used to refer to a person who has substantial experience and skills in a certain job but has lost that job because of a plant closing, slack work, or elimination of their position or shift. Telephone operators, construction crews, and oil field workers provide examples of Alaskan workers who have been displaced at one time or another during the 1980s.

In response to the concern over dislocated workers, several federal programs were created during the 1980s. In 1982, the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) was passed by Congress to establish training and employment programs targeted at specific groups, one of which (Title III) was dislocated workers. Another section of the JTPA legislation authorized the Bureau of Labor Statistics to collect statistics relating to permanent layoffs and plant closings. These statistics would fill an information void and enable more intelligent decision-making about future laws aimed at helping the displaced worker.

In 1984 the Bureau of Labor Statistics developed a model for what is now known as the Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) program. Originally tested in eight states, MLS is now operational in 44 states and will soon be nationwide. The MLS program gathers and compiles information about all kinds of layoffs, including those which produce dislocated workers. This information is stored in a comprehensive database for further analysis as

How MLS Data are Gathered and Used

In brief, the program works this way. Employers with 20 or more unemployment insurance (UI) claims filed against them in any continuous three week period are contacted. If the employer says that 20 or more people were laid off for more than 30 days, a **layoff event** has occurred. When this is the case, employers are asked to provide additional details including how many people were affected, the layoff location and date, and the reason for the layoff.

This information is then linked to UI claims data, and worker profiles are developed incorporating claimant characteristics. The data are also sent to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics for inclusion into national statistics.

Currently, MLS data are used in a formula to distribute certain Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) funds within Alaska. In the future, more programs may depend on MLS for federal funding as well as for indications of change in the layoff situation both at the state level and nationwide.

the need arises. As recession looms in most of the country and layoffs become more frequent, MLS takes on a new relevance.

The Mass Layoff Statistics program began data collection in Alaska during the last quarter of 1987. Although not strictly limited to dislocated workers as defined above (since it includes seasonal and project employment), MLS produces the only statistical information currently available about layoffs in Alaska. This article will primarily focus on 1989 with some comparisons to 1988 and to national data.

Oil Spill Cleanup Dominates 1989 Layoffs

Because Alaska's economy was on the rebound in 1989, there was an overall drop to 54 layoff events from the 79 events during 1988. (A layoff event occurs when an employer reports 20 or more people are laid off for 30 or more days. See inset on How MLS Data are Gathered and Used for more details.) The year started off with very few events and built to a peak in the 4th quarter (see Figure 1). Normal seasonal layoffs in the last part of the year combined with layoffs related to the end of oil spill cleanup activity were responsible for the 4th quarter peak.

The oil spill layoffs of late 1989 also caused a huge increase in the number of people laid off and filing initial claims for unemployment insurance (UI). The trend over several years can be seen in Figure 2. There often seems to be a lag of about a quarter before people file for UI; sometimes they don't file at all.

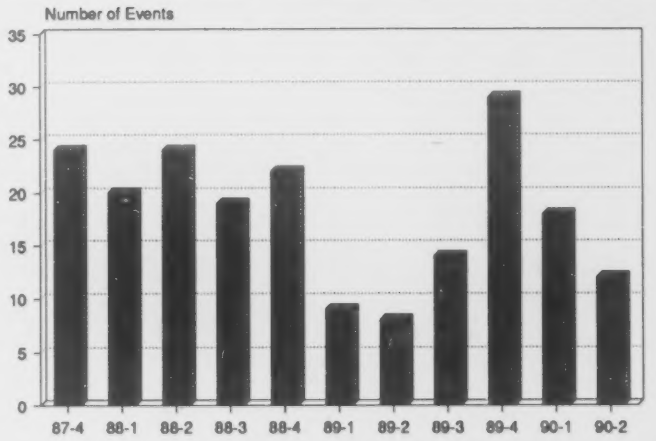
For example in 1988 only 4,749 out of 6,788 people (70%) filed initial claims for UI after being involved in a mass layoff. In 1989 the percentage is even lower at 5,476 out of 12,145 or 45%. Why don't people file for unemployment after a mass layoff? The answers are many, including finding another job right away, returning to school after a summer job, or being ineligible for UI benefits because of insufficient earnings. Nationally, the claims to layoffs ratio was 78% in 1988 and 77% in 1989.

In Alaska the average number of people laid off per event in 1988 was 86. In 1989 this rose to 225, again as a result of the large oil spill layoffs. Nationally the 1988 figure was 194 people laid off per event and in 1989 there were 207 layoffs per event. Normally the comparable national figures would be expected to be higher because only layoffs of 50 or more people are included in the national data.

Only 16 of the Alaskan layoff events in both 1988 and 1989 were in the 50+ category; the rest involved between 20-49 people per event. This

Figure • 1

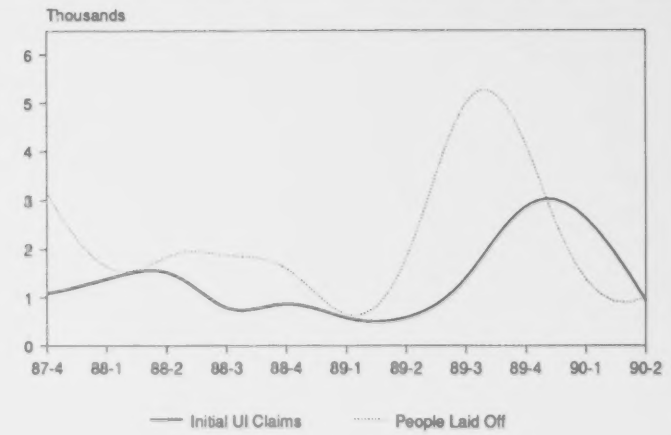
Mass Layoffs in Alaska 1987-1990



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Figure • 2

Mass Layoffs in Alaska 1987-1990



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Table • 1

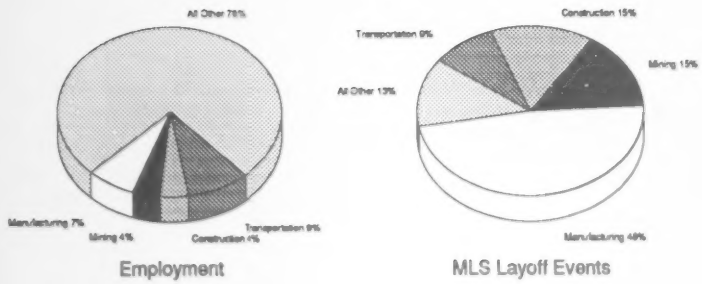
MLS Layoffs by Industry, 1989

Industry	Number of Layoff Events	Percent of Total	People Laid Off	Percent of Total	Initial UI Claims	Percent of Total
Manufacturing	26	48.1	2,638	21.7	2,088	38.1
Mining	8	14.8	6,682	55.0	1,678	30.6
Construction	8	14.8	1,306	10.8	613	11.2
Transportation	5	9.3	712	5.9	682	12.5
Government	4	7.4	350	2.9	249	4.5
Services	2	3.7	307	2.5	123	2.2
Finance	1	1.9	150	1.2	43	0.8
Total	54	100.0	12,145	100.0	5,476	100.0

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Figure • 3

Industry Composition in 1989
Alaska Employment & MLS Layoffs Events



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

isn't surprising since 95% of Alaska's firms employ less than 50 people and around 90% employ less than 20 people. Thus, only 10% of Alaska's companies will ever show up in the MLS statistics, which are restricted to layoffs of 20 or more workers.

Half of MLS Layoffs In Manufacturing Industry

All of the major industries except trade experienced MLS layoffs in 1989. The layoffs were dominated by manufacturing with 26 events. This is surprisingly similar to the national picture which also shows around half of all layoff events in manufacturing. Since manufacturing employs a much greater part of the work force nationally than in Alaska, it might also be expected to show a larger share of layoffs. However, Alaska's largest manufacturers have many seasonal layoffs which differs from the national situation of year-round manufacturing.

Within the manufacturing industry, there was a fairly even split between the seafood processors and the forest products industry as far as MLS layoffs were concerned. Most layoffs were seasonal but a few were attributed to slack work, a material shortage, or foul weather.

Rounding out the Alaska top four were mining, construction, and transportation. Together, these four industries comprised a small share of Alaska's 1989 employment but accounted for the majority of the MLS layoff events (see Figure 3).

Although manufacturing led the list in number of layoff events, the majority of people were laid off by the mining industry. This reflects the large number of oil spill cleanup workers (over 5,000) that were coded as being employed by the oil and gas sector. Approximately another thousand workers from the oil spill cleanup were coded as belonging to the construction and transportation industries and helped boost their numbers as well.

The remaining three industries (finance, services, and government) did not show as much MLS activity. This is to be expected since they are either composed of mainly small firms (services) or traditionally offer more stable employment (finance, government) than the industries previously discussed. Together they accounted for seven layoff events. Table 1 shows the complete

breakdown by industry for layoff events, number of people laid off, and number of initial UI claims filed in 1989 related to MLS events in Alaska.

"Seasonal" Leads List of Reasons for Layoffs

The dominant cause for MLS layoffs in Alaska in 1989 was seasonal factors. This was cited over twice as often as any other reason (see Table 2). Since so many industries in Alaska are seasonal, this only confirms what has long been suspected.

The next most important reason was completion of a contract. The majority of oil spill cleanup layoffs fell into this category. Less frequent reasons given by MLS employers were slack work, weather-related curtailment, material shortage, and bankruptcy. There are many other causes for mass layoffs or business closings: business ownership change, labor dispute, import competition, and automation, to name a few. Some of these are more important nationally but may affect Alaska in the future as our economy diversifies and matures.

Nationally, seasonal shutdowns were also the chief cause for MLS layoffs (32%), but slack work was a close second with 24% of the layoff events. Contract completion fell third at 8%.

How do the initial claimants from MLS layoffs compare to other UI claimants? At first glance they seem to live in the same places (see Table 3). However, the MLS claimants are underrepresented in the large urban centers of Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau. On the other hand, some of the major fishing and logging areas such as the Kenai Peninsula, Kodiak, Valdez/Cordova and Wrangell/Petersburg have a disproportionate share of MLS claims. This reflects the high number of seafood processing, logging and mill layoffs in those areas. In addition, the oil spill and its subsequent cleanup and layoffs impacted most of the areas where MLS claims were relatively high.

A smaller percentage of Alaska Natives were MLS initial claimants than in the general UI claimant population (see Figure 4). There were also slightly more people over age 55 in the MLS group. The smaller proportion of women in the MLS initial claimants can probably be attributed to the smaller proportion of women participating in the oil spill cleanup.

Table • 2

Reasons for MLS Layoffs, 1989

	Number of Layoff Events	Percent of Total	People Laid Off	Percent of Total	Initial UI Claims	Percent of Total
Seasonal	29	53.7	3,144	25.9	2,005	36.6
Contract Completed	11	20.4	7,865	64.8	2,438	44.5
Slack Work	4	7.4	279	2.3	437	8.0
Weather-Related	3	5.6	354	2.9	157	2.9
Material Shortage	2	3.7	70	0.6	161	2.9
Bankruptcy	1	1.9	0	0.0	42	0.8
Other	4	7.4	433	3.6	236	4.3
Total	54	100.0	12,145	100.0	5,476	100.0

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Table • 3

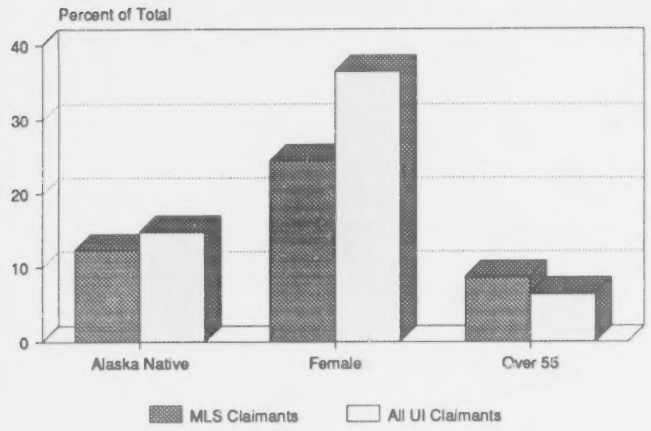
Location of MLS Initial Claimants Compared to All UI Claiments in 1989

	MLS Initial Claimants	Percent of Total	All UI Claimants	Percent of Total
Aleutian Islands Census Area	0	0.0	76	0.2
Anchorage Borough	1,139	20.8	11,247	25.1
Bethel Census Area	22	0.4	517	1.2
Bristol Bay Borough	2	0.0	46	0.1
Dillingham Census Area	7	0.1	221	0.5
Fairbanks North Star Borough	381	7.0	5,264	11.7
Haines Borough	57	1.0	193	0.4
Juneau Borough	82	1.5	1,594	3.6
Kenai Peninsula Borough	739	13.5	3,837	8.6
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	154	2.8	1,223	2.7
Kodiak Island Borough	931	17.0	894	2.0
Matanuska-Susistna Borough	437	8.0	3,570	8.0
Nome Census Area	47	0.9	574	1.3
North Slope Borough	27	0.5	233	0.5
Northwest Arctic Borough	33	0.6	406	0.9
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan C.A.	88	1.6	746	1.7
Sitka Borough	99	1.8	541	1.2
Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon Census Area	118	2.2	547	1.2
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	27	0.5	427	1.0
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	190	3.5	769	1.7
Wade Hampton Census Area	24	0.4	264	0.6
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	257	4.7	767	1.7
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	58	1.1	774	1.7
Alaska-Unknown Census Area	30	0.5	0	0.0
Alaska Total	4,949	90.4	34,730	77.4
Out of State	527	9.6	10,128	22.6
Total	5,476	100.0	44,858	100.0

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Figure • 4

Selected Characteristics of MLS and All UI Claimants, 1989



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Summary

The number of MLS layoff events dropped from 79 in 1988 to 54 in 1989 as a result of an improved economy. However, more people were affected in 1989 due to the influence of the Exxon Valdez oil spill cleanup, which accounted for approximately half of the 12,000 people laid off. About 45% of the people who were laid off filed for unemployment insurance. They shared many characteristics of other UI claimants.

Preliminary 1990 MLS data suggest there were 60 layoff events in that year. Most of these layoffs are seasonal in nature and would probably occur each year regardless of fluctuations in the economy. If Alaska's predicted employment growth comes in seasonal or project-oriented industries the number of layoffs could actually increase. This may be offset by a decline in the number of layoffs caused by other reasons.

The Latest Dislocated Worker Legislation: WARN and EDWAA

After much debate, two new laws relating to dislocated workers were passed by Congress in 1988. The first, called the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (WARN), requires employers of 100 or more workers to give 60 days notice in advance of a layoff or closing expected to last 6 months or longer involving 50 or more permanent, full-time workers.

The second piece of legislation, the Economic Dislocation and Worker Adjustment Assistance Act (EDWAA), essentially replaces the JTPA Title III program. It is designed to provide retraining and other assistance for dislocated workers. To reach this goal, each state will also establish a Dislocated Worker Unit (DWU) to coordinate services and develop plans for a rapid response team.

In Alaska, implementation of WARN began in February 1989. As of December 1990 there have been four WARN layoffs involving 400 workers. One example of a WARN layoff in Alaska was the early 1990 closure of the Nordstrom store in Fairbanks.

The EDWAA program began in July of 1989 and had 497 participants during the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 1990, which ran from July 1989 through June 90. The average wage at placement was $10.81 per hour. During SFY 1989 the EDWAA program had 312 participants. The average wage at placement was $11.58 an hour.

For more information on Alaska's WARN and EDWAA programs, contact:

Carolyn Tuovinen
Dislocated Worker Unit
Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs
949 East 36th Avenue #402
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Alaska's Economy Ends Year On An Upbeat Note

By Neal Fried

Alaska's Economy Shines While The Nation's Dims

The nation's retailers reported a scrooge-like Christmas season while retailers' registers rang loudly in Alaska. Banks in the nation are failing in record numbers; a new bank is opening in Alaska and others are earning record profits. Employment in the nation is falling while employment expands in Alaska. A growing number of state governments are awash in red ink and Alaska's state government is racking up a handsome surplus.

Alaskans are not gloating over their good fortune. The state has already been through the economic ringer and does not wish it on anyone else. Another reason why Alaska's good times are not being flaunted is because some of Alaska's industries are adversely affected by a weak national economy. Another reason Alaskans can't afford to swagger over this change of events is because much of this prosperity may be tenuous, given the erratic price of oil.

Housing Glut Changes to Housing Shortage

Recently the "great Alaska real estate recovery" has dominated the economic news. In a sense, it is not really news because real estate is a lagging indicator and it is simply an affirmation that the recovery is nearly complete. The swiftness of this recovery, however, is surprising. Vacancy rates of more than 25% three years ago have fallen dramatically.

Table • 1

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work — Alaska

	p/ 12/90	r/ 11/90	12/89	Changes from: 11/90	Changes from: 12/89
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	227,100	229,100	221,200	-2,000	5,900
Goods-producing	31,300	33,700	29,600	-2,400	1,700
Mining	10,700	11,000	9,900	-300	800
Construction	9,100	10,100	8,100	-1,000	1,000
Manufacturing	11,500	12,600	11,600	-1,100	-100
Durable Goods	2,700	3,500	3,000	-800	-300
Lumber & Wood Products	1,900	2,700	2,300	-800	-400
Nondurable Goods	8,800	9,100	8,600	-300	200
Seafood Processing	5,000	5,300	4,900	-300	100
Pulp Mills	900	900	900	0	0
Service-producing	195,800	195,400	191,600	400	4,200
Transportation	19,100	19,200	18,600	-100	500
Trucking & Warehousing	2,500	2,400	2,300	100	200
Water Transportation	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0
Air Transportation	6,400	6,500	6,300	-100	100
Communications	3,200	3,300	3,200	-100	0
Trade	46,500	46,100	44,900	400	1,600
Wholesale Trade	8,300	8,400	7,900	-100	400
Retail Trade	38,200	37,700	37,000	500	1,200
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	6,600	6,300	6,300	300	300
Food Stores	6,800	6,600	6,600	200	200
Eating & Drinking Places	12,700	12,700	12,300	0	400
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	10,700	10,700	10,500	0	200
Services & Misc.	48,500	48,400	46,900	100	1,600
Hotels & Lodging Places	4,900	4,900	4,500	0	400
Government	71,000	71,000	70,700	0	300
Federal	18,500	18,500	19,000	0	-500
State	21,500	21,700	21,200	-200	300
Local	31,000	30,800	30,500	200	500

Notes: Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

The employment numbers that appear above are definitionally different from those that appear in the Labor Force table.

Benchmark date: March 1989
p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

Table • 2

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work

Municipality of Anchorage

	p/ 12/90	r/ 11/90	12/89	Changes from: 11/90	12/89
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	109,700	109,800	105,650	-100	4,050
Goods-producing	10,150	10,750	9,200	-600	950
Mining	3,650	3,650	3,500	0	150
Construction	4,500	5,000	3,800	-500	700
Manufacturing	2,000	2,100	1,900	-100	100
Service-producing	99,550	99,050	96,450	500	3,100
Transportation	10,350	10,400	10,250	-50	100
Trucking & Warehousing	1,400	1,400	1,400	0	0
Water Transportation	300	300	350	0	-50
Air Transportation	4,000	4,000	3,900	0	100
Communications	1,900	1,950	1,850	-50	50
Trade	27,150	26,850	26,000	300	1,150
Wholesale Trade	6,250	6,300	5,950	-50	300
Retail Trade	20,900	20,550	20,050	350	850
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	3,050	3,050	3,000	0	50
Food Stores	3,200	3,100	3,250	100	-50
Eating & Drinking Places	8,000	7,900	7,450	100	550
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	6,850	6,850	6,800	0	50
Services & Misc.	28,150	28,050	26,800	100	1,350
Hotels & Lodging Places	2,650	2,600	2,400	50	250
Government	27,050	26,900	26,600	150	450
Federal	10,500	10,350	10,350	150	150
State	8,050	8,150	7,750	-100	300
Local	8,500	8,400	8,500	100	0

Fairbanks North Star Borough

	p/ 12/90	r/ 11/90	12/89	Changes from: 11/90	12/89
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	26,850	27,250	26,100	-400	750
Goods-producing	2,050	2,250	1,900	-200	150
Mining	150	150	100	0	50
Construction	1,400	1,600	1,300	-200	100
Manufacturing	500	500	500	0	0
Service-producing	24,800	25,000	24,200	-200	600
Transportation	1,900	2,000	1,750	-100	150
Trucking & Warehousing	450	500	450	-50	0
Air Transportation	400	400	350	0	50
Communications	250	250	250	0	0
Trade	5,850	5,850	5,800	0	50
Wholesale Trade	700	700	700	0	0
Retail Trade	5,150	5,150	5,100	0	50
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	650	650	750	0	-100
Food Stores	800	800	800	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	1,750	1,800	1,700	-50	50
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	900	900	850	0	50
Services & Misc.	6,000	6,100	5,850	-100	150
Government	10,150	10,150	9,950	0	200
Federal	3,000	2,950	3,100	50	-100
State	4,350	4,400	4,200	-50	150
Local	2,800	2,800	2,650	0	150

Anchorage-MatSu Region

	p/ 12/90	r/ 11/90	12/89	Changes from: 11/90	12/89
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	116,700	117,000	112,450	-300	4,250
Goods-producing	10,600	11,350	9,500	-750	1,100
Mining	3,800	3,850	3,500	-50	300
Construction	4,700	5,300	4,000	-600	700
Manufacturing	2,100	2,200	2,000	-100	100
Service-producing	106,100	105,650	102,950	450	3,150
Transportation	11,050	11,150	10,950	-100	100
Trade	28,850	28,600	27,750	250	1,100
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,300	7,300	7,250	0	50
Services & Misc.	29,350	29,250	27,950	100	1,400
Government	29,550	29,350	29,050	200	500
Federal	10,550	10,450	10,450	100	100
State	8,800	8,850	8,550	-50	250
Local	10,200	10,050	10,050	150	150

Interior Region

	p/ 12/90	r/ 11/90	12/89	Changes from: 11/90	12/89
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	30,700	31,150	30,050	-450	650
Goods-producing	2,300	2,600	2,150	-300	150
Mining	300	350	250	-50	50
Construction	1,450	1,700	1,350	-250	100
Manufacturing	550	550	550	0	0
Service-producing	28,400	28,550	27,900	-150	500
Transportation	2,150	2,250	1,950	-100	200
Trade	6,300	6,250	6,200	50	100
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	950	950	950	0	0
Services	6,500	6,600	6,300	-100	200
Government	12,500	12,500	12,500	0	0
Federal	3,550	3,500	3,650	50	-100
State	4,600	4,650	4,500	-50	100
Local	4,350	4,350	4,350	0	0

Notes: Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

The employment numbers that appear above are definitionally different from those that appear in the Labor Force table.

Benchmark date: March 1989 p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates

(cont. on page 13)

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work

Southeast Region

	p/ 12/90	r/ 11/90	Changes from: 12/89	11/90	12/89
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	30,600	31,800	30,450	-1,200	150
Goods-producing	4,800	5,750	5,150	-950	-350
Mining	350	350	300	0	50
Construction	1,000	1,050	950	-50	50
Manufacturing	3,450	4,350	3,900	-900	-450
Durable Goods	1,700	2,400	2,150	-700	-450
Lumber & Wood Products	1,550	2,300	2,000	-750	-450
Nondurable Goods	1,750	1,950	1,750	-200	0
Seafood Processing	650	900	650	-250	0
Pulp Mills	900	850	950	50	-50
Service-producing	25,800	26,050	25,300	-250	500
Transportation	2,250	2,300	2,200	-50	50
Trade	5,150	5,250	5,050	-100	100
Wholesale Trade	650	660	600	0	50
Retail Trade	4,500	4,600	4,450	-100	50
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,100	1,100	1,050	0	50
Services & Misc.	5,000	4,950	5,000	50	0
Government	12,300	12,450	12,000	-150	300
Federal	2,100	2,150	2,100	-50	0
State	5,300	5,450	5,350	-150	-50
Local	4,900	4,850	4,550	50	350

Gulf Coast Region

	p/ 12/90	r/ 11/90	Changes from: 12/89	11/90	12/89
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	20,750	21,050	20,300	-300	450
Goods-producing	4,400	4,650	4,350	-250	50
Mining	950	950	900	0	50
Construction	900	950	900	-50	0
Manufacturing	2,550	2,750	2,550	-200	0
Seafood Processing	1,500	1,700	1,500	-200	0
Service-producing	16,350	16,400	15,950	-50	400
Transportation	1,650	1,650	1,500	0	150
Trade	3,700	3,700	3,500	0	200
Wholesale Trade	450	450	450	0	0
Retail Trade	3,250	3,250	3,050	0	200
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	550	550	550	0	0
Services & Misc.	4,300	4,350	4,100	-50	200
Government	6,150	6,150	6,300	0	-150
Federal	600	600	550	0	50
State	1,800	1,800	1,950	0	-150
Local	3,750	3,750	3,800	0	-50

Northern Region

	p/ 12/90	r/ 11/90	Changes from: 12/89	11/90	12/89
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	14,300	14,750	13,950	-450	350
Goods-producing	5,850	6,250	5,550	-400	300
Mining	5,300	5,700	5,050	-400	250
Service-producing	8,450	8,500	8,400	-50	50
Government	4,500	4,500	4,500	0	0
Federal	250	250	250	0	0
State	350	350	350	0	0
Local	3,900	3,900	3,900	0	0

Southwest Region

	p/ 12/90	r/ 11/90	Changes from: 12/89	11/90	12/89
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	13,850	13,750	13,450	100	400
Goods-producing	3,200	3,050	2,950	150	250
Seafood Processing	2,800	2,500	2,600	300	200
Service-producing	10,650	10,700	10,500	-50	150
Government	6,250	6,300	6,300	-50	-50
Federal	1,300	1,350	1,400	-50	-100
State	550	550	550	0	0
Local	4,400	4,400	4,350	0	50

Notes: Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

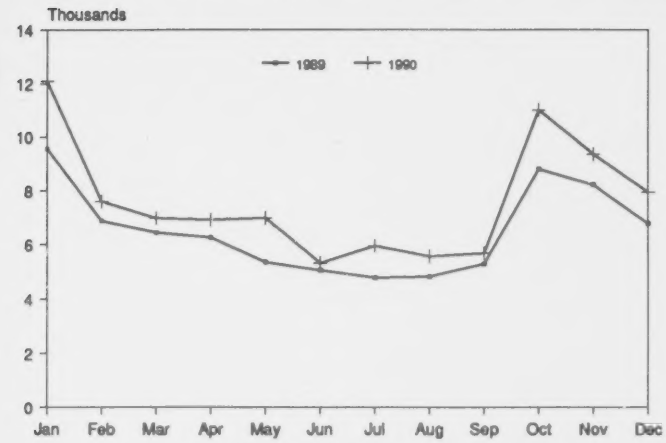
The employment numbers that appear above are definitionally different from those that appear in the Labor Force table.

Benchmark date: March 1989 p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

Figure • 1

Alaska Unemployment Claims 1989-1990



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

ployment claims comes as the result of robust economic activity. More people are working in Alaska's seasonal industries, and therefore more workers are eligible for unemployment benefits when seasonal layoffs are made.

For example, nearly 1,000 more construction workers were employed this December than last, but the number of unemployment claimants from this industry was also 134 above last year (See Table 1). Alaska's seasonal industries are disproportionately represented among the claimants. Alaska's construction and manufacturing (mostly fish processing and timber) industries accounted for only 9% of all wage and salary employment in December but they had 28% of all unemployment claims.

Another interesting trend is the dramatic increase in the number of claimants who recently moved to Alaska and are receiving unemployment checks based against wages earned in another state. These numbers are forecasted to continue to grow because of the deteriorating national employment picture. This is contributing to a higher unemployment rate.

More astonishing is the possibility that a housing shortage may soon be plaguing many communities. One already exists in Juneau where the vacancy rate is as low as 1%. In Valdez the housing situation is so tight that Alyeska Pipeline Company is working with the City of Valdez and a developer to find a solution to the city's housing shortage. The Mayor of Anchorage appointed a task force to help find housing for the new tactical fighter wing's families by late 1991.

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Unemployment Rate Climbs

Although a good Christmas season and positive real estate news lent some warmth to Alaska's economy in December, the rest of the economy was headed into the deep freeze. More than 2,000 jobs were lost in December, not an unusual event for this time of year. Because of these seasonal losses the unemployment rate for Alaska climbed from 6.7% in November to 7.4% in December. (See Table 4.) The rate is slightly higher than last December but remains below historical winter levels.

Higher Unemployment Not Necessarily A Bad Sign

The number of unemployment claims filed in December was more than two thousand higher than a year ago. (See Figure 1.) If an increase of this magnitude was occurring in the nation, it would be interpreted as a slowdown in the economy or, worse yet, the beginning of a recession. In Alaska, however, this increase in unem-

Bank Opening Is An Important Symbolic Event

The opening of the new Northrim Bank in Anchorage in December was not as much of an employment event (they have 24 employees) as it was an important symbolic event for Alaska's banking community. Fewer than half of the banks in the state in 1984 exist today. Any new entry is an important sign that this industry is finally on the mend.

Alaska's financial industry is one of the few industries where employment has yet to begin recovery. With Northrim's entry and positive news coming from other institutions, employment may finally begin to increase. Although some financial institutions are large employers, the industry as a whole is a relatively small employer in the state. This industry's prominence in the economy is not so much as an employer but as a vehicle to help other businesses grow.

All Regions Contribute To A Positive Economic Picture

In December of 1990 all of Alaska's regions had more employment than in December 1989. (See Figure 2 and Table 2.) For the second month in a row the Gulf region's employment showed up on the plus side of the ledger. This is because the oil spill factor is no longer in the equation – by December of 1989 there were no spill workers in the region. There has been underlying growth in the region's economy during most of the year. Now that over-the-year comparisons are not being

Table • 3

Alaska Hours and Earnings for Selected Industries [1/2]

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	p/ 12/90	r/ 11/90	12/89	p/ 12/90	r/ 11/90	12/89	p/ 12/90	r/ 11/90	12/89
Mining	$1,158.66	$1,163.37	$1,088.90	48.5	49.4	47.2	$23.89	$23.55	$23.07
Construction	1,040.29	1,042.59	989.00	44.4	43.1	43.8	23.43	24.19	22.58
Manufacturing	491.44	505.59	546.62	37.4	38.1	39.1	13.14	13.27	13.98
Seafood Processing	332.70	380.59	362.85	36.4	41.1	41.0	9.14	9.26	8.85
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	613.25	578.64	588.76	35.8	34.3	34.9	17.13	16.87	16.87
Trade	413.57	404.69	385.10	35.9	34.5	34.6	11.52	11.73	11.13
Wholesale	597.98	564.80	548.49	41.7	40.0	38.9	14.34	14.12	14.10
Retail	354.62	352.18	334.32	34.0	32.7	33.2	10.43	10.77	10.07
Finance-Ins. & R.E.	413.50	401.80	402.34	36.4	35.0	35.7	11.36	11.48	11.27

Notes: p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates Benchmark: March 1989

[1]/ Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

[2]/ Retail Trade excludes eating and drinking establishments.

Averages are based on data for full- and part-time production workers (manufacturing) and nonsupervisory workers (nonmanufacturing) and are for gross earnings and hours paid, including overtime pay and hours.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

made with an economy inflated with oil spill workers, this growth is clearly evident.

Oil and hard rock mining kept the Northern region's employment numbers up. Fishing was Southwest Alaska's key to growth. Southeast's growth was tenuous at best but its mining, construction, and service-producing sectors were strong enough to more than make up for its weakening timber industry.

Small increases in most of Fairbanks' and Interior's industries helped sustain growth. Larger pluses in most industries in the Anchorage/Matsu region kept this area's employment numbers in the black.

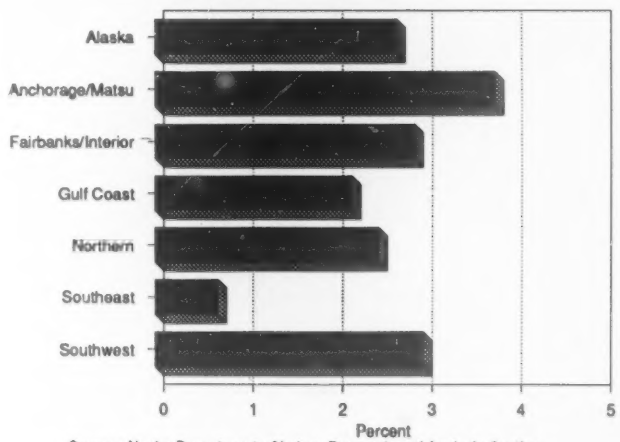
Summary: 1990 Was A Good Year

Alaska's economy is ending the year on a positive note – particularly when contrasted with the nation's economic performance. Employment in Alaska is expanding. A strong rebound in the real estate market is continuing. State government is operating in the black. A new bank opened its doors in December.

Alaska's present positive economic picture is a statewide phenomenon, although there are some weak spots such as the softening timber industry in Southeast. Alaskans now have two complete years of strong economic recovery behind them. It appears the trend will continue in 1991, although certainly with some new twists.

Figure • 2

Employment Growth Rates December 1989-December 1990



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Table • 4

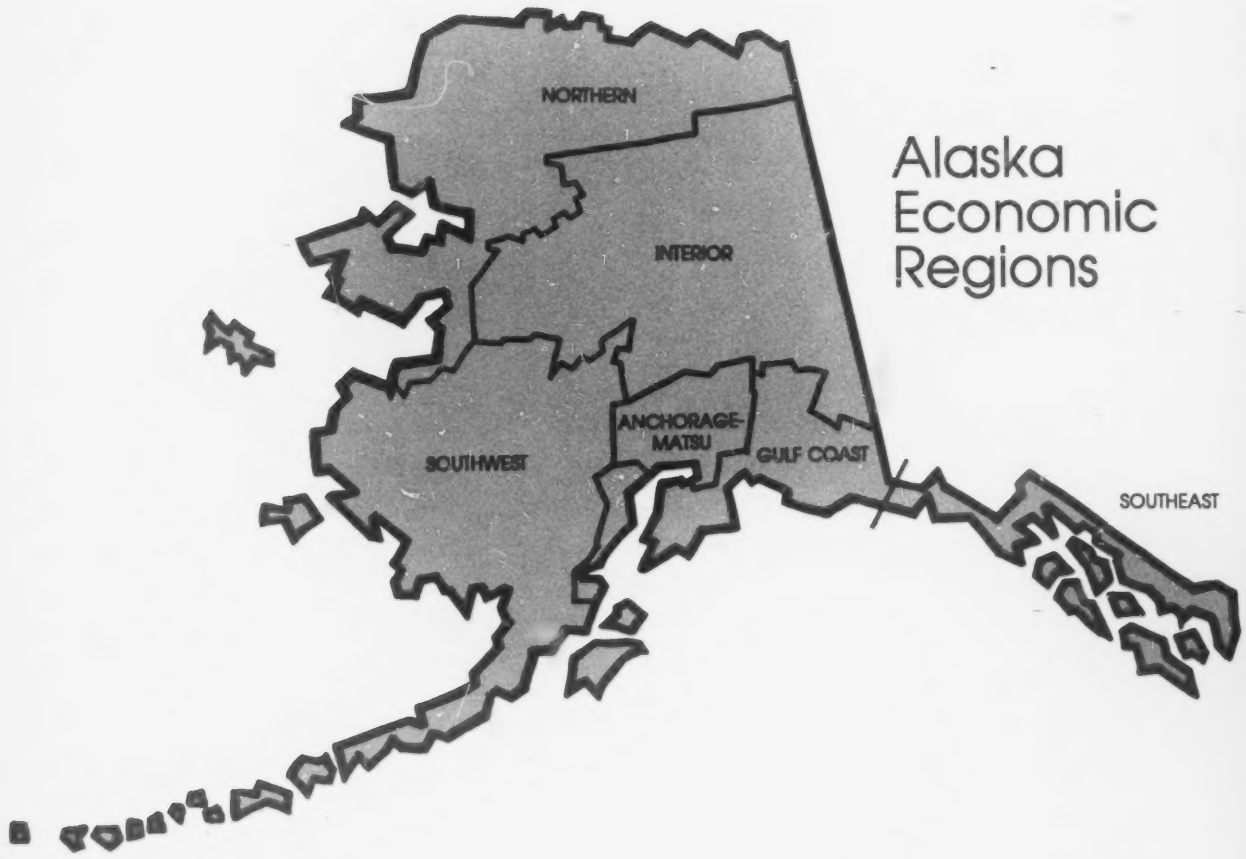
Labor Force By Region and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	p/ 12/90	r/ 11/90	12/89	p/ 12/90	r/ 11/90	12/89	p/ 12/90	r/ 11/90	12/89	p/ 12/90	r/ 11/90	12/89
Alaska Statewide	254,366	254,146	252,084	18,943	16,942	17,732	7.4%	6.7%	7.0%	235,423	237,204	234,352
Anch.-MatSu Region	134,660	133,965	132,633	8,182	7,448	7,911	6.1	5.6	6.0	126,478	126,517	124,722
Municipality of Anchorage	119,349	118,457	117,466	6,284	5,747	5,907	5.3	4.9	5.0	113,065	112,710	111,559
MatSu Borough	15,311	15,508	15,167	1,898	1,701	2,004	12.4	11.0	13.2	13,413	13,807	13,163
Gulf Coast Region	27,677	27,630	27,373	3,063	2,735	2,860	11.1	9.9	10.4	24,614	24,895	24,513
Kenai Peninsula Borough	17,156	17,211	16,946	2,074	1,957	1,926	12.1	11.4	11.4	15,082	15,254	15,020
Kodiak Island Borough	6,272	6,166	6,253	525	354	530	8.4	5.7	8.5	5,747	5,812	5,723
Valdez-Cordova	4,249	4,253	4,174	464	424	404	10.9	10.0	9.7	3,785	3,829	3,770
Interior Region	36,347	36,285	36,081	3,504	3,081	3,147	9.6	8.5	8.7	32,843	33,204	32,934
Fairbanks North Star Bor.	31,303	31,305	31,040	2,826	2,515	2,484	9.0	8.0	8.0	28,477	28,790	28,556
Southeast Fairbanks	2,119	2,077	2,064	299	237	239	14.1	11.4	11.6	1,820	1,840	1,825
Yukon-Koyukuk	2,925	2,903	2,977	379	329	424	13.0	11.3	14.2	2,546	2,574	2,553
Northern Region	8,336	8,434	8,395	518	474	529	6.2	5.6	6.3	7,818	7,960	7,866
Nome	3,109	3,117	3,125	249	205	247	8.0	6.6	7.9	2,860	2,912	2,878
North Slope Borough	3,048	3,100	3,081	91	89	106	3.0	2.9	3.4	2,957	3,011	2,975
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,179	2,217	2,189	178	180	176	8.2	8.1	8.0	2,001	2,037	2,013
Southeast Region	34,821	35,465	35,131	3,048	2,639	2,769	8.8	7.4	7.9	31,773	32,826	32,362
Haines Borough	858	858	863	103	78	94	12.0	9.1	10.9	755	780	769
Juneau Borough	15,228	15,617	15,475	859	772	840	5.6	4.9	5.4	14,369	14,845	14,635
Ketchikan Gateway Bor.	6,605	6,630	6,539	717	547	542	10.9	8.3	8.3	5,888	6,083	5,997
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketch.	2,697	2,711	2,698	354	290	311	13.1	10.7	11.5	2,343	2,421	2,387
Sitka Borough	4,038	4,213	4,096	295	346	284	7.3	8.2	6.9	3,743	3,867	3,812
Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon	1,750	1,772	1,727	287	260	237	16.4	14.7	13.7	1,463	1,512	1,490
Wrangell-Petersburg	3,645	3,664	3,733	433	346	461	11.9	9.4	12.3	3,212	3,318	3,272
Southwest Region	12,525	12,367	12,471	628	565	516	5.0	4.6	4.1	11,897	11,802	11,955
Aleutians East Borough	876	869	893	5	5	18	0.6	0.6	2.0	871	864	875
Aleutians West	2,460	2,444	2,479	20	24	27	0.8	1.0	1.1	2,440	2,420	2,452
Bethel	4,839	4,741	4,734	330	268	203	6.8	5.7	4.3	4,509	4,473	4,531
Bristol Bay Borough	491	475	475	31	19	13	6.3	4.0	2.7	460	456	462
Dillingham	2,259	2,236	2,303	105	99	138	4.6	4.4	6.0	2,154	2,137	2,165
Wade Hampton	1,600	1,602	1,587	137	150	117	8.6	9.4	7.4	1,463	1,452	1,470

Notes: p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates Benchmark: 1989

- Federal guidelines require the use of unrounded labor force data, adjusted to be consistent with the Current Population Survey in formulas used to allocate federal funds.
- Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series published by the Alaska Department of Labor.
- The official definition of unemployment currently in place excludes anyone who has made no attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of each month. Most Alaska economists believe that Alaska's rural localities have proportionately more of these discouraged workers.
- The employment numbers that appear above are definitionally different from those that appear in the Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment tables.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.



Alaska Economic Regions